

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, 1998, I was incorrectly recorded as voting "aye" on rollcall vote 405, which was final passage of H.R. 2183. I oppose H.R. 2183 and intended to vote "no" on rollcall vote 405.

REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 598, the resolution calling on the President to take all necessary steps to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions for other purposes. I commend my Ohio colleague, Representative JAMES TRAFICANT, Jr., for introducing this resolution that calls for the President of the United States to impose a one year ban on steel imports from Japan, Russia, and Brazil.

During the 1980's, there were massive layoffs in Ohio that I will never forget. There were two steel mills that had gone bankrupt in Warren County, Ohio. Companies that depended on steel dollars filed for bankruptcy. Our tax base was eroded. Ohio had to cut back on vital city and council services.

My State, Ohio and the United States as a whole suffered dramatically from 1980 to 1992. The U.S. steel industry's workforce was cut by 57 percent, eliminating hundreds of thousands of jobs as 450 facilities were closed. Ohio's residents have made extraordinary and painful sacrifices, losing hundreds of thousands of jobs. But out of this, the American steel industry was rebuilt into the most efficient and productive, and the most competitive in the world.

Unfortunately, the dire situation of well over a decade ago is happening again. Newspapers across Ohio carry articles about layoffs at various steel plants. As a nation, we cannot afford to remain silent.

In Cleveland, coils of imported steel are stacked high in every direction. These thousands of coils, as well as the warehouses that are full of imported steel throughout Ohio are just one indication of the surge of imports hitting our shores in recent months. This caused spot prices to fall to levels that we have not seen since the mid 1980's.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress must call on the President to pursue vigorous enforcement of United States trade laws relating to unfair trade practices especially with respect to the significant increase of steel imports into the United States. There is a great need for the President to pursue consultations with officials of Japan, Korea, the European Union, and other nations that may play an important part in eliminating import barriers that affect steel mill products. It is very clear that we must take action to preserve U.S. jobs in the vital sector.

Mr. Speaker, vote "yes" on H. Res. 598.

VAIL, CO, ARSON

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I submit three recent newspaper articles concerning issues surrounding the mysterious fires in Vail, CO, to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and recommend that my colleagues read them.

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 21, 1998]

ROMER TABS RESORT FIRES AS TERRORISM

VAIL, COLO.—Seven separate fires that destroyed a ski lodge and other buildings at 11,000 feet were an "act of terrorism," Gov. Roy Romer said Tuesday as workers resumed an expansion project at the Vail Mountain resort.

"I know that mountain quite well, and it's inconceivable some natural occurrence would cause simultaneous fires on that ridge," Romer said at a news conference in Denver, 100 miles to the east of Vail.

The fires broke out early Monday and caused an estimated \$12 million in damage, destroying the luxurious Two Elk restaurant, the Ski Patrol headquarters, a picnic spot and four chairlifts.

The fires came after the Rocky Mountain resort on Friday began an 885-acre expansion project that wildlife groups say will make the area uninhabitable for endangered lynx. Cross-country skiers say the project will limit access. The groups have denied any involvement.

State and federal agents were investigating the fires, which burned independent of each other. Two of the buildings destroyed were more than a mile apart.

Vail officials said the nation's busiest ski area would open as planned on Nov. 6.

If the fires are linked to Vail's expansion, they would rank among the worst acts of eco-terrorism in the past decade, said Ron Arnold, executive vice president of the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, a Bellevue, Wash., group that tracks ecological crimes.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 22, 1998]

GROUP SAYS VAIL FIRES WERE IN BEHALF OF LYNX

(By James Brooke)

DENVER.—The Earth Liberation Front, a shadowy group that has taken responsibility for a series of arson fires in the Northwest, declared in an e-mail communique Wednesday that the fires atop Vail mountain on Monday were carried out "on behalf of the lynx."

"Putting profits ahead of Colorado's wildlife will not be tolerated," read the brief statement, which was sent electronically to several Colorado news organizations. "We will be back if this greedy corporation continues to trespass into wild and unroaded areas."

The seven fires caused about \$12 million worth of damage to buildings and chair lifts along a 11,200-foot-high ridge that overlooks a National Forest area where the Vail ski area started clearing trees on Friday as part of a controversial expansion. Earlier this year, environmentalists, back country skiers and many residents of Eagle County had spoken out at public meetings to block Vail's plan to expand into an area seen as potential habitat for the reintroduction of the lynx in the Colorado Rockies.

Vail, which plans to open for skiing on Nov. 6, is the nation's busiest ski area, selling 1.6 million lift tickets last winter.

Addressing the nation's skiers, the communique warned: "For your safety and convenience, we strongly advise skiers to choose other destinations until Vail cancels its inexcusable plans for expansion."

Wednesday evening in Vail, the Eagle County sheriff's office said after receiving the two-paragraph statement by fax: "Currently investigators are reviewing the origin and the content for credibility and will continue its investigation using this communique as a source for information."

A Vail Resorts spokesman did not return telephone calls for comment. Although the fires here appear to be in response to a local dispute, security was tightened this week at other ski areas around Colorado, the nation's most popular skiing state.

Barry Clausen, a Northern California researcher who studies terrorist acts claimed by environmental extremists, said Wednesday that the Earth Liberation Front has taken credit for most of the arson fires linked to environmental protests.

He said the language in Wednesday's communique "is almost identical to other letters the ELF has sent to other victims of arson fires."

Over the last two years, Clausen said, the Earth Liberation Front has taken credit for five arsons against federal government buildings in Oregon and Washington state.

"We are seeing a decline in small acts of sabotage, against timber and mining, and an escalation of large acts of terrorism," Clausen said from his office in Eureka.

Noting that an article criticizing Vail's expansion plans appeared in the May-June issue of Earth First Journal, Clausen said: "It's a real pattern. Many times articles come out in the Journal. Then, there is sabotage."

The article, headlined "Super Vail . . . Super Ugly!" charged that Vail wanted to "bring the resort lifestyle into some of the last, best old-growth habitat for lynx in the southern Rockies." But the author, Ben Doon, did not advocate violence. Citing legal efforts to stop the expansion, Doon urged readers to contact Ancient Forest Rescue, an environmental group.

In interview in Vail on Tuesday, Jeff Ber- man, the local representative of Ancient Forest Rescue, appeared depressed by the fires, deserving them as a setback in his battle for public opinion. He asked: "Does this help us? Of course not."

Wednesday, Theresa Kintz, editor of the Earth First Journal, said after reading the communique: "It is entirely possible that it was an ELF action."

"Personally, I don't have a problem with hitting people like Vail Inc. in their pockets," said Ms. Kintz, who dedicates a page of news, headlined "Earth Night," to sabotage actions claimed by the Earth Liberation Front. "I don't have a problem with seeing their facilities burn down. It's a war."

"Monkey wrenching and eco-sabotage are strategies that some people feel are justified in some circumstances," she continued, using Earth First! jargon for sabotaging machinery. Noting that arson was a new step, she added: "Classic eco-sabotage would be monkey wrenching bulldozers."

In its November 1990 edition, the Earth First Journal published a photograph of a bulldozer apparently sabotaged by militants opposed to a ski area expansion near Pagosa Springs, Colo., the only other recent case of environmental terrorism against a Colorado ski area.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 27, 1998]

RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS TAKE NEW APPROACH

(By Robert Weller)

VAIL, COLO.—Mining and logging, the industries that helped build the West, used to